

Rural Electrification

2565. Shri G. S. Mishra: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of expenditure earmarked for rural electrification in the Fourth Plan;

(b) the amount of money allocated for the extension of rural electrification in Madhya Pradesh in the Fourth Plan;

(c) the total capital investment made so far in rural electrification schemes and the annual running charges involved in these schemes;

(d) the net loss being incurred per year due to rural electrification schemes; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) The Fourth Plan has not yet been finalised. A provision of about Rs. 300 crores has been proposed tentatively for rural electrification in the country in the Fourth Plan.

(b) An outlay of Rs. 12 crores has been recommended by the Working Group on power. The Fourth Plan of Madhya Pradesh is, however, yet to be finalised.

(c) Upto the end of the Third Plan, the investment for the whole of India in rural electrification was about Rs. 230 crores. Since separate accounts are not maintained by the State Electricity Boards for rural electrification schemes, it is not possible to indicate the extent of annual running charges.

(d) and (e). As the State Electricity Boards are not keeping separate accounts for rural electrification schemes, it is not possible to make a precise assessment of the losses. But it is an accepted fact that these schemes are uneconomic owing to the necessity of investing large sums of money for laying long transmission and distribution lines for supplying rural loads which are general sparsely located and

have also very low utilisation factor, together with the necessity of fixing a tariff commensurate with the low paying capacity of the average cultivator.

Line Losses of Electricity in Public and Private Sectors.

2566. Shri G. S. Mishra: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the total line losses as percentage of total installed generating capacity in public sector as compared to the total line losses as percentage of total installed capacity in private sector;

(b) the total monetary loss in revenue due to excessive line losses;

(c) whether the losses are excessive in public sector and if so, the measures taken to reduce the same; and

(d) the State Electricity Boards having the highest and lowest loss together with its value in terms of generating capacity?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) to (d). A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-674/67].

General Insurance Companies

2567. Shri Jyotirmoy Basu: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the number of General Insurance Companies in India;

(b) how many of them are foreign controlled;

(c) how many of them are controlled by Birla Group; and

(d) the total number of persons employed in India by the General Insurance Companies?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House as soon as it is ready.